whether the complaint is frivolous, vexatious or is not made in good faith or whether there are sufficient grounds for investigation into the complaint.

(b) and (c) the modalities for setting up of the National Judicial Council, in consultation with all the stake holders, are being worked out.

Vacancies of Judges

544. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in various courts and the period of pendency of such vacancies;

(b) whether if is a fact that the Supreme Court has given its recommendations to fill up the vacancies and the same is pending with Government;

(c) by when Government would clear the proposal for filling up of the vacancies, and

(d) the norms adopted for the selection and appointment of Judges, whether the selection will be based on merit coupled with fairness and objectivity instead of being influenced and carried away by the political considerations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A Statement is enclosed. *(See* below).

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The recommendations of the Supreme Court to fill up the vacancies in different High Courts are being processed in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose.

(d) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. Judges are selected keeping in view their educational qualifications, nature and extent of practice, length of the practice, the field of specialization and professional income for the last three years. Besides this, the competence of the person, his judicial potential, temperament and integrity are also kept in mind at the time of appointment.

Statement

Number of vacancies of Judges in various High Courts and the period of their pendency

Sl No.	Name of the High Court	Sanctioned strength as on 21.11.2005	Working strength (as per Region-wise)	Vacancies	Dates of vacancy
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Allahabad	95	81	14	18/03/2003 01/05/2003 10/07/2003 24/07/2003 15/12/2003 13/06/2004 22/07/2004 30/12/2004 05/01/2005 22/07/2005 01/08/2005 28/08/2005 31/08/2005 11/11/2005
2	Andhra Pradesh	39	29	10	03/10/2003 06/10/2003 15/04/2004 01/07/2004 11/07/2004 02/01/2005 02/03/2005 20/03/2005 03/05/2005 23/05/2005
3	Bombay	60	56	04	13/02/2004 27/05/2005 01/10/2005 08/10/2005

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Calcutta	50	32	18	26/03/2002 25/12/2002 04/03/2003 03/10/2003 30/04/2004 27/08/2004 01/11/2004 01/12/2004 07/12/2004 08/01/2005 05/03/2005 05/03/2005 15/07/2005 01/08/2005 21/08/2005 09/09/2005 04/10/2005 10/11/2005
5	Chhattisgarh	08	07	01	01/11/2000
6	Delhi	33	25	08	31/03/2003 14/11/2003 05/12/2003 15/12/2003 10/04/2004 22/10/2004 31/05/2005 28/10/2005
7	Guahati	19	19	—	—
8	Gujarat	42	33	09	02/01/1998 04/05/1998 29/12/2002 07/06/2004 10/06/2004 22/08/2004 10/12/2004 04/03/2005 07/08/2005

1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Himachal Pradesh	08	05	03	04/04/2005 30/06/2005 04/10/2005
10	Jammu & Kashmir	14	12	02	24/03/2002 20/08/2005
11	Jharkhand	12	06	06	15/11/2002 15/01/2004 12/08/2004 06/10/2004 01/07/2005 13/08/2005
12	Karnataka	40	32	08	05/04/2004 18/04/2004 11/05/2004 20/05/2004 24/05/2004 20/03/2005 17/08/2005 09/09/2005
13	Kerala	29	28	01	17/09/2004
14	Madhya Pradesh	41	40	01	03/11/2005
15	Madras	42	20	22	13/03/2001 17/05/2001 04/07/2001 20/12/2002 08/02/2003 19/03/2003 17/06/2003 06/07/2003 18/07/2003 15/12/2003 07/03/2004 13/03/2004 03/06/2004

1	2	3	4	5	6
					01/07/2004
					01/07/2004
					08/01/2005
					15/01/2005
					25/01/2005
					02/03/2005
					08/04/2005
					13/09/2005
					05/11/2005
16	Orissa	20	15	05	19/10/2001
					19/01/2004
					03/03/2004
					05/01/2004
					24/11/2004
17	Patna	31	24	07	27/12/2001
					03/10/2002
					15/06/2003
					01/02/2005
					02/10/2005
					04/01/2005
					06/03/2005
18	Punjab & Haryana	40	31	09	10/06/2002
					02/04/2003
					14/02/2003
					10/05/2003
					20/05/2003
					22/01/2004
					03/02/2004
					04/10/2004
					24/09/2004

1	2	3	4	5	6
19	Rajasthan	40	31	09	29/06/2003 (3) 07/06/2004 10/07/2004 20/10/2004 20/02/2005 25/02/2005 08/03/2005
20	Sikkim	03	01	02	13/03/2002 18/05/2003
21	Uttaranchal	09	09	—	—

Lok Adalats/Fast Track Courts

545. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to set up more Lok Adalats in the country to clear pending cases in High Court and lower courts;

(b) if so, the number of Lok Adalats at present functioning in various States;

(c) how many cases have so far been cleared by these Lok Adalats;

(d) to what extent it has reduced the number of pending cases in High Courts and Lower Courts; and

(e) whether in view of the successful functioning of the adalats Government are considering to provide help and assistance to the States to set up more and more Fast Track Courts/Lok Adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. More and more Lok Adalats are being set up and are being organised to clear pending cases in High Courts and lower courts.

(b) and (c) As on 30.9.2005,4,86,080 Lok Adalats have been held in which more than 1.83 crore cases have been settled throughout the country.